

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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AI
- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
- 2 a light source, wherein the light source is oriented towards the key;
- 3 one or more keys; and
- 4 at least one glyph for each key, each glyph having a characteristic
- 5 corresponding to the light being provided from the light source.
- 1 2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein characteristics of the light being
- 2 provided from the light source are selectable.
- 1 3. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the characteristics include
- 2 intensity, wavelength, and location.
- 1 4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the top surface of the key is white.
- 1 5. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the top surface of the key is black.
- 1 6. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the key is translucent.
- 1 7. The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein the glyph is transparent.
- 1 8. The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein the glyph is translucent.
- 1 9. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the key is transparent.
- 1 10. The apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the glyph is translucent.
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1 11. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the first key includes a plurality  
2 of keys.

1 12. The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the glyphs on each one of the  
2 plurality of keys are transparent.

1 13. The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the glyphs each one of the  
2 plurality of keys are translucent.

1 14. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a selector coupled to  
2 the light source.

1 15. The apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the selector selects at least one  
2 characteristic of the light source.

1 16. The apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the characteristic selected is a  
2 wavelength of light.

1 17. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the wavelength is a  
2 complimentary color to a color of a selected glyph.

1 18. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the selected wavelength of the  
2 light source increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the  
3 selected glyph.

1 19. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the selected wavelength of the  
2 light source is not a complimentary color to the color of the selected glyph.

1 20. The apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the selected wavelength of the  
2 light source decreases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the  
3 selected glyph.

1 21. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is a light  
2 emitting diode (LED).

1 22. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is at least one of a  
2 group consisting of: a fluorescent light source, a laser light source, an  
3 incandescent light source, an ultraviolet light source, or an infrared light source.

1 23. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is under the key.

1 24. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is above the key.

1 25. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is toward a side  
2 of the key.

1 26. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source is located inside  
2 the key.

1 27. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is a  
2 thumbwheel.

1 28. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is a second  
2 key.

1 29. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is voice  
2 activated.

1 30. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is a portion of  
2 a touch-screen.

1 31. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the glyph selector is software.  
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1 32. A method comprising:

2 providing a key wherein the key includes at least one glyph wherein each  
3 glyph has a color; and  
4 selecting one glyph on at least one key by lighting the key with a selected  
5 light source.

1 33. The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the light source includes a  
2 selectable color.

1 34. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of the selectable  
2 colors causes the selected glyph to have an increased contrast when compared to  
3 the glyph other than the selected glyph.

1 35. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of the selectable  
2 colors causes the selected glyph to have a decreased contrast when compared to  
3 the glyph other than the selected glyph.

1 36. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the wavelength of the selected  
2 light source is complimentary in color to the color of the selected glyph.

1 37. An apparatus comprising:

2 a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys;  
3 a plurality of glyphs on each key wherein each glyph includes a color;  
4 a light source including a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light  
5 source is under the keyboard, wherein the color selected increases the  
6 contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph;  
7 and  
8 a glyph selector wherein the glyph selector is coupled to the light source.

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1 38. The apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein the light source includes a  
2 plurality of light sources and wherein at least one of the plurality of light sources  
3 is under each key.

1 39. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys;  
3 a plurality of glyphs on each key wherein each glyph includes a color;  
4 a light source including a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light  
5 source is above the keyboard, wherein the selected color increases the  
6 contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected glyph;  
7 and  
8 a glyph selector wherein the glyph selector is coupled to the light source.

1 40. The apparatus as recited in claim 39, wherein the light source is directed  
2 toward the keyboard.

1 41. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys;  
3 a plurality of glyphs on each key wherein each glyph includes a color;  
4 a light source including a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light  
5 source is located on the perimeter of the keyboard, wherein the selected color  
6 increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the selected  
7 glyph; and  
8 a glyph selector wherein the glyph selector is coupled to the light source.

1 42. The apparatus as recited in claim 41 wherein a light ray from the light source is  
2 substantially conducted laterally from the perimeter of the keyboard through at least  
3 one side of at least one of the plurality of keys.

1 43. The apparatus as recited in claim 41, wherein a light ray from the light source  
2 is substantially conducted laterally from a first key of a plurality of keys to a  
3 second key of the plurality of keys.

1 44. A method comprising:  
2 providing a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys  
3 wherein each one of the keys includes a plurality of glyphs and wherein  
4 each glyph has a color;  
5 providing a light source with a plurality of selectable colors; and  
6 selecting at least one of the plurality of selectable colors wherein the selected  
7 color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the  
8 selected glyph.

1 45. The method as recited in claim 44, wherein the light source is within each one  
2 of the plurality of keys.

1 46. The method as recited in claim 44, wherein the light source includes a  
2 plurality of light sources and wherein at least one of the plurality of light sources  
3 is under each one of the plurality of keys.

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1 47. A method comprising:

2 providing a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys  
3 wherein each one of the keys includes a plurality of glyphs and wherein  
4 each glyph has a color;  
5 providing a light source with a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light  
6 source is located above the keyboard; and  
7 selecting at least one of the plurality of selectable colors, wherein the selected  
8 color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the  
9 selected glyph.

1 48. A method comprising:

2 providing a keyboard wherein the keyboard includes a plurality of keys wherein  
3 each one of the keys includes a plurality of glyphs and wherein each glyph  
4 has a color;  
5 providing a light source with a plurality of selectable colors wherein the light  
6 source is located in the perimeter of the keyboard; and  
7 selecting at least one of the plurality of selectable colors, wherein the selected  
8 color increases the contrast of a selected glyph over a glyph other than the  
9 selected glyph.

1 49. The apparatus as recited in claim 48 wherein a light ray from the light source is  
2 substantially conducted laterally from the perimeter of the keyboard through at least  
3 one side of at least one of the plurality of keys.

1 50. The apparatus as recited in claim 48, wherein a light ray from the light source  
2 is substantially conducted laterally from a first key of a plurality of keys to a second  
3 key of the plurality of keys.

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